three Oil Marketing Companies IOC, BPCL and HPCL have reported that an approximate amount of Rs. 26 crores is due from 33 State Road Transport Corporations and other similar organisations run by the States/Local Bodies. Paucity of funds, non-payment of interest charges on delayed payments, etc. are some of the reasons given for the accumulation of these dues. Efforts are constantly being made by the Oil Companies to recover these amounts.

Increase in the production of LPG.

1879. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken to increase day to day production of LPG by the existing Bottling Plants and the latest safety measures to be adopted in each Plant (State-wise) for the year 1992-93 as compared to figures of the last year in percentage of month-wise production;

(b) whether Government have worked out supply and demand position of LPG in the country particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa during 1992-93; if so, whether more Plants are likely to be opened during this period of the 8th Five Year Plan Period in these two States; if not, the reasons therfor; and

(c) whether Government have any Plan to send abroad LPG qualified Engineers/Staff working in India to undertake extensive comparative study of production safety measures being adopted by other advanced countries vis a-vis India; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The total quantity of LPG used in filling of Cylinders in the various bottling plants in the country during 1991-92 was around 2333 TMT as against 2080 TMT in 1990-91. Efforts are continuously being made to increase the supply of LPG to fill more LPG cylinders by augmenting the capacity of existing bottling plants and also by setting up new bottling plants in various parts of the country. While proposals have been made for increasing the bottling capacity of some existing plants and for setting up new plants in different states, actual decisions would depend on availability of resources, availability of LPG, prioritisation of need amongst different States etc.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

CBI cases against officials

1880. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of CBI investigations and internal vigilance enquiries pending against the Officers of Public Sector Undertaking engaged in exploration, refining and marketing of Petroleum Products;

(b) what are the names and designations of officers charged with corruption including raids carried out at their personal or official residences;

(c) the number of officers kept under suspension pending the results of the investigation; and

(d) what is the outcome of the investigations during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exploration of oil-fields by International Companies

1881. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign multinationals have

approached Government to exploit certain proven oilfields of the country;

(b) if so, the details of their offers;

(c) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has also suggested to open Bombay offshore and Gulf of Cambay to international companies or to joint ventures between India and international companies; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Some foreign companies have shown interest in participating in the development of discovered oil fields in India. They have said they would be willing to consider making a specific offer once they know the fields to be developed and have examined the data of the fields.

(c) No such specific proposal has been received by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(d) Does not arise.

GAIL's objection to International Arbitration

1832. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL is objecting to International Arbitration included in the contract with the contractor of the HBJ pipeline; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that GAIL has applied to the Delhi High Court to stop reference of dispute to solve the difference by the contractually agreed procedure?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) According to GAIL as per the contract executed, all disputes and arbitration proceedings are to be governed by Indian Laws. GAIL had accordingly approached Delhi High Court under whose jurisdiction all matters/disputes arising out of the said contract lie.

Extension of broad gauge line upto Lumding

1883. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided in principle to extend the broad gauge line upto Lumding;

(b) if so, whether any fund allocation has been made in the Eighth Five Year Plan; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present position of the much demanded broad gauge extension upto Dibrugarh in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Allocation for 1992-93 for conversion of New Guwahati-Lumding gauge conversion project is Rs. 47.27 crores.

(c) Extension of broad gauge upto Dibrugarh has been included in the Action Plan and is likely to be taken up during the VIII Five Year Plan.

One contractor at one station

1884. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RALWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 2761 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 1990 and state:

(a) what are the details of stations/platforms (with names) vacated by A. H. Wheeler and Company in fav-